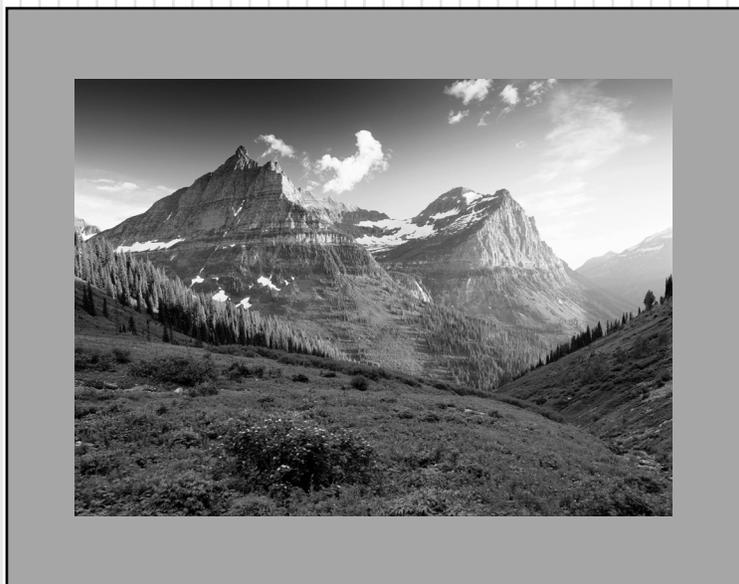


Montana
Comprehensive Assessment
System (MontCAS, Phase 2)
Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE
READING, GRADE 10

2005



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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Reading Session 1

This is a passage about frogs in Florida. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

From Cross Creek

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

I do not profess to know all there is to know about frogs, lizards, ants, and varmints. I have learned enough, however, in years of enforced intimacy, to turn them from aliens into friends, or at least into bowing acquaintances. I should have been prepared to like frogs. One who has heard a northern spring come in on that silver chorus should make decent obeisance to the singers and all their related family. The frog Philharmonic of the Florida lakes and marshes is unendurable in its sweetness. I have lain through a long moonlit night, with the scent of orange blossoms palpable as spilled perfume on the air, and listened to the murmur of minor chords until, just as I have wept over the Brahms waltz in A flat on a master's violin, I thought my heart would break with the beauty of it. If there is not a finished tune, there are phrases, and there is assuredly a motif, articulated, reiterated. I searched long in my mental attic before I remembered where I had heard the sound before. It is the high thin jangle of Chinese music, overlaid with the pattern of glass windchimes, such as Alvah had given me for Christmas.

If frogs an inch long have never been carved in apple-green jade, they should be. Nothing else could repeat the jewel-like perfection of this diminutive species. Their eyes are tiny moonstones. I am sure of this, for I just stepped off the veranda and turned back a spider-lily leaf to look at one and make certain. They are also as soft and smooth as satin. I know this, too, for the variety is the one that clings to the wetness of the shower-bath pipe and drops on my skin.

They appear in June, full-fledged, and do not seem to change their size all summer. Martha calls them the rain-frogs. They are inch-long, animated pieces of pale green enamel. Self-conscious jewels, they seem to choose their setting. I find them until the first frost on the pleasanter side of a lily leaf. Spider lily leaves are preferred, being roomier, but a large Amaryllis will do. At night, or when the sun is not too fierce, they lie in the inner trough of the thick spiked leaves. When the sun is high, or when the rain comes down tempestuously, they cling with

tiny cream-jade vacuumed feet to the under side of a leaf. They roll their moonstone eyes. They quiver slightly if their perch is shaken. They move only when actually dispossessed, taking off in a long leap that is almost a flight.

They are a celestial breed of frogs and in season are found in apartments suitable to reincarnated Chinese emperors—large yellow allamanda blossoms. The flowers are trumpet-shaped, two inches deep. The chosen few among the frogs lie all day in these deep golden caves, contemptuous of a less luxurious world. I have no doubt that prevailing winds blow in their breakfasts and their teas of insects. There is an uncanny resemblance between the frogs and the buds of the allamanda. Until they open, the buds are precisely the size and shape of the frogs. Until well along into yellow prematurity, they are even the same shade of green. They have the same snub nose, the same little bulges of two eyes. It is easy to imagine that the more royal frogs are born in the allamanda blossoms, giving the buds their shape. It seems as though there must be a mystic affinity between the flower and its inhabitant. If I were a theosophist, I should certainly revere the tiny frogs as the living shape of Chinese aristocrats, who, even in an enforced humility of form, maintain an archaic arrogance. It would surely, I decided, be *lêse majesté* to scream at one in the shower bath.

The Widow Slater, however, always screamed at them.

"I'm as skeert of a toady-frog as of a snake," she said. "I don't want a thing to do with anything can swaller fire and shot."

Some connotation from Elizabethan witch days still clings in these Anglo-saxon parts to a frog or toad. "Eye of newt and toe of frog" in the litany of Macbeth's witches has its counterpart here. It is not the only trace of Old English in the Florida interior, for the backwoods people come of a line that stems back to Chaucer. The fire-swallowing of the Widow Slater's complaint I cannot vouch for, but I have it on reliable authority that a toad will swallow buckshot until he can hold no more.

22. Explain how the author uses imagery in this passage to create an effective picture of frogs and their habitat. Give two examples from the text to support your explanation.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation for how the author uses imagery to create an effective picture of frogs and their habitat. The explanation includes specific and relevant examples from the text to support the explanation.
3	Response provides an explanation for how the author uses imagery to create an effective picture of frogs and their habitat. The explanation includes supporting examples from the text that lack some development and/or specificity.
2	Response provides a partial explanation for how the author uses imagery to create an effective picture of frogs and their habitat. The explanation includes limited and/or partially correct supporting examples from the text.
1	Response is a minimal or vague statement about how the author uses imagery to create an effective picture of frogs and their habitat.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Scoring Notes

Possible answers

- the author uses imagery of a “silver chorus” in the moonlit night to compare the sounds frogs make to a symphony or to glass wind chimes.
- the appearance of frogs is compared to “apple-green jade,” to jewels, pieces of pale-green enamel, with moonstone eyes.
- the frogs are soft and smooth as satin, shaped like the buds of allamanda blossoms, and remind the author of Chinese emperors.

Score Point 4

Sample 1

The author uses several forms of figurative language to describe the frogs. "...as soft and smooth as satin." He describes the eyes of a frog as moonstones and the body as a jade jewel. By describing a frog and the buds of allamanda flower the author creates a vivid picture of a brilliant green frog surrounded by beautiful flowers. The author continuously describes frogs as jewels. This gives the idea that frogs are gorgeous creatures that should be valued. The author also uses several words to describe a frog's color. For example, jade and green. All these sources of imagery paint the picture.

Thorough and insightful explanations. Uses a lot of specific details ("soft and smooth as satin...", "jade," "allamanda flower") as support.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

The author...uses a lot of very good words to describe the frogs and how they are a magnificent creature. For example, "Nothing else could repeat the jewel-like perfection of this diminutive species. Their eyes are tiny moonstones." He also uses the habitat to tell how wonderful of a place they live in. "The chosen few among frogs lie all day in these deep golden caves, contemptuous of a less luxurious world."

Lacks some development of how the imagery works to create an effective picture. The support is relevant but not explained.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

In this story the author uses phrases such as, "nothing else could repeat the jewel-like perfection of this diminutive species," & "if frogs an inch long have never been carved in apple-green jelly, they should be." Hawkins used very imaginative adjectives to vividly display scenes of nature to all your senses.

Partial explanation. Limited overall response.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

the author creates a great picture of frogs and their habitat because he uses great detail and can prove that's what frogs look like.

Minimal and vague response.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

How do you know about frogs.
What do frogs live at in the wild

Irrelevant.

Reading Session 3

This is an article about what you can do to overcome anxiety. Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

Dealing with Anxiety

Steve Mandel

Anxiety is a natural state that exists any time we are placed under stress. Giving a presentation normally will cause some stress.

When you learn to make stress work for you, it can be the fuel for a more enthusiastic and dynamic presentation. These two pages will teach you how to recycle your stress in a positive form. The information will help you become a better presenter.

As someone once said, “the trick is to get those butterflies in your stomach to all fly in one direction!”

Leo is a student in high school. In two weeks he has to deliver a presentation to his class. He knows his topic, but his audience will be examining his presentation very closely, and Leo is certain he will receive some very tough questions. Every time Leo thinks about planning what to say, he gets too nervous to begin work.

If Leo’s problem of anxiety before a presentation sounds familiar, then the following may help:

TIPS FOR REDUCING ANXIETY

1. ORGANIZE

Lack of organization is one of the major causes of anxiety. Later in this book you will learn a simple technique for organizing your presentation. Knowing that your thoughts are well organized will give you more confidence, which will also allow you to focus energy into your presentation.

2. VISUALIZE

Imagine walking into a room, being introduced, delivering your presentation with enthusiasm, fielding questions with confidence and leaving the room knowing you did a great job. Mentally rehearse this sequence with all the details of your particular situation, and it will help you focus on what you need to do to be successful.

3. PRACTICE

Many speakers rehearse a presentation mentally or with just their lips. Instead, you should practice standing up, as if an audience were in front of you, and use your visual aids (if you have them.) At least two dress rehearsals are recommended. If possible, have somebody critique the first one and/or have it videotaped. Watch the playback, listen to the critique and incorporate any changes you feel are required before your final practice session. *There is no better preparation than this.*

Carol is a student in Leo’s high school class. She is making her presentation after Leo. Leo is finishing his remarks and in two minutes she will have to stand up and make her presentation. She is experiencing extreme anxiety at a time when she needs to be focused and collected.

Carol’s situation is quite common. If you experience anxiety immediately before speaking, try some of the following exercises next time you’re waiting for your turn to stand up and speak:

4. BREATHE

When your muscles tighten and you feel nervous, you may not be breathing deeply enough. The first thing to do is to sit up, erect but relaxed, and inhale deeply a number of times.

5. FOCUS ON RELAXING

Instead of thinking about the tension—focus on relaxing. As you breathe, tell yourself on the inhale “I am” and on the exhale, “relaxed.” Try to clear your mind of everything except the repetition of the “I am – relaxed” statement and continue this exercise for several minutes.

6. RELEASE TENSION

As tension increases and your muscles tighten, nervous energy can get locked into the limbs. This unreleased energy may cause your hands and legs to shake. Before standing up to give a presentation, it is a good idea to try to release some of this pent up tension by doing a simple, unobtrusive isometric exercise.

Starting with your toes and calf muscles, tighten your muscles up through your body finally making a fist (i.e., toes, feet, calves, thighs, stomach, chest, shoulders, arms and fingers). Immediately release all of the tension and take a deep breath. Repeat this exercise until you feel the tension start to drain away. Remember, this exercise is to be done quietly so that no one knows you’re relaxing!

Andrew, another student in Leo’s class, gives his presentation tomorrow morning. When he gives presentations he gets very nervous. He sweats, his hands tremble, his voice becomes a monotone (and at times inaudible). He also fidgets with items, such as a pen, and looks at his notes or the overhead projector screen, not at his audience. He can barely wait to finish and return to his seat.

Andrew’s plight is not uncommon. You may not have all of these symptoms but you can probably relate to some of them. The following techniques will help you in situations where you get nervous while speaking.

7. MOVE

Speakers who stand in one spot and never gesture experience tension. In order to relax you need to release tension by allowing your muscles to flex. If you find you are locking your arms in one position when you speak, then practice releasing them so that they do the same thing they would if you were in an animated one-on-one conversation. You can’t gesture too much if it is natural.

Upper body movement is important, but moving with your feet can serve to release tension as well. You should be able to take a few steps, either side-to-side or toward the audience. When speaking from a lectern you can move around the side of it for emphasis (if you have a moveable microphone). This movement will help release your tension and never fail to draw the audience into the presentation. If you can’t move to the side of the lectern, an occasional half-step to one side will help loosen muscle tension.

8. EYE CONTACT WITH THE AUDIENCE

Try to make your presentation similar to a one-on-one conversation. Relate with your audience as individuals. Look in peoples’ eyes as you speak. Connect with them. Make it personal and personable. The eye contact should help you relax because you become less isolated from the audience and learn to react to their interest in you.

72. Identify signs of anxiety both before and during a presentation. Describe what steps can be taken to reduce the effects of anxiety before and during a presentation. Use specific information from the article to support your answer.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response correctly identifies signs of anxiety both before and during a presentation. Response provides a complete description of steps that can be taken to reduce the effects of anxiety. The description includes specific and relevant supporting information from the passage.
3	Response correctly identifies signs of anxiety both before and during a presentation. Response provides a description of steps that can be taken to reduce the effects of anxiety. The description includes relevant supporting information from the article that lacks some development and/or specificity.
2	Response provides a partial answer: identifies signs of anxiety both before and during a presentation but provides limited or partially correct information of steps that can be taken to reduce the effects of anxiety, OR identifies signs of anxiety either before or during a presentation and describes steps that can be taken to reduce the effects of that anxiety.
1	Response is a minimal or vague statement about anxiety before and/or during a presentation.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Scoring Notes: (may include but not limited to)

Before a presentation, a person might experience so much anxiety that he or she cannot begin the work needed to prepare for a presentation. A person might experience shallow breathing, tension can cause arms and legs to shake, he or she may have trouble relaxing, and may not be able to stay focused and collected immediately before a presentation.

What can be done: breathing exercises, exercises done while seated to relieve muscle tension, careful practice and organization. Visualizing the room and audience can also be helpful.

During a presentation, a person might be so nervous that he or she experiences sweating, trembling hands, his voice may become nearly inaudible or he may speak in a monotone, he may become fidgety and not able to look at the audience.

What can be done: eye contact with the audience, movement around the room as much as possible, gesture as much as is normal or comfortable, try to make it like a one-to-one conversation.

Score Point 4

Sample 1

There are many symptoms of anxiety that can be noted in a person under stress, and there are many steps that can be taken to reduce those symptoms. One common symptom of anxiety is lack of concentration to begin a project. One may become preoccupied with the presentation part of a project so much so that when it comes to planning and gathering information, they cannot focus. To avoid this, one must take time to organize his or her thoughts, then organize a plan and his or her information. Another symptom of anxiety is extreme nervousness minutes before a presentation. To avoid this, one must breathe deeply, focus on clearing his or her head, and release tension by moving his or her body. Extreme anxiety while speaking is another symptom. One might sweat and tremble, or stammer in their speech. To avoid this, one might walk about while presenting, use hand gestures along with his or her speech, and make eye contact with audience members. One may become a successful speaker with application of these exercises.

Thorough, text-based response. Includes lots of examples of symptoms of stress, along with a good discussion of ways to relieve stress.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

You may become too nervous to start and think about your speech. Maybe you feel extreme anxiety a couple minutes before your speech, or you may find yourself looking at other things in the classroom instead of your audience. If you are nervous before you start, try to organize perhaps, or try practicing or visualizing your speech. When you feel anxiety perhaps you need to just breathe deeper and clear your mind, but say "I am relaxed". When you tend to look around during your speech, you should try moving a little relaxing your muscles and get eye contact so you become connects with the audience.

While response does include specific details regarding steps to be taken to reduce anxiety, it lacks specific details from the text about identifying the signs of anxiety.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

While planning a person can become too nervous to work. Some people get nervous right before they speak; and still others experience anxiety during a presentation. Some signs of extreme anxiety are, talking in a monotone, sweating, trembling, fidgeting with items, and not looking at the audience. Some steps to reduce the effects of anxiety are; organization, visualization, practice, proper breathing, movement, and eye contact with the audience.

Partial response. Correctly states some signs of anxiety. Lists some steps to reduce anxiety without describing them.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

Be organized take some deep breaths to help you out,
Practice a couple of times before you start + visualize.

Minimal response about how to reduce stress.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

Carol is a student in Leo's high school class.

Irrelevant quote from text.